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Public School Work.

Theological Seminary, Va.
To the Editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

Dear Sir: Will you kindly give space to a few suggestions in regard to public school houses in our country districts.

The recent happy impulse toward a higher standard for the public school work, and the wholehearted recognition of the conscientious, faithful, unobtrusive labors of the public school teachers indicates that this is a subject of general interest which its importance fully justifies. There are two points to which the writer would attract attention, through your courtesy. The first is the disposition of wealthy or well-born people, so-called, to patronize the country public schools; the second, the condition of the school houses themselves whether they are calculated to attract cultivated minds, or satisfy refined tastes.

The first question, as to the attitude of well-to-do country people toward the public schools, is very interesting. I have heard people say repeatedly: "The great problem of country life is how to educate one's children." They are oblivious, apparently, that if one throws a stone one may strike a public school house in one's own neighborhood. Governors with piles of commendatory letters from bishops, priests and deacons are everywhere, in many cases accomplishing very little. Small private schools drag along, affording a scanty education to the pupils, and a scanty livelihood to the teachers--and every where the public school is passed by.

Why is this? Partly, I think, because of a prejudice which is dying a slow death--partly because the public school houses are inferior to the teaching patiently offered day by day by faithful women within those unattractive walls. The writer can well recall twenty years ago hearing a gentleman of the old school in Alexandria lamenting her inability to afford her sons an education, protesting in the same breath that they should never go to the public schools "with common people's children." She comforted her loving heart with the thought that, though uneducated, the distinguished name they bore would always give them "an assured position in society." A few parents still think this way, but in so thinking prove their inexperience. The old name alone, unsupported by other qualities, might insure recognition in the home circle in Alexandria, or Berryville, or Fairfax Court House; but how much would it be worth in the rush and struggle and competition of New York, or Chicago, or London?

Now, the wise parent is disposed to say, "Let me send my child where he will receive the best and fairest and most thorough training," and prefers not to make a fool of him by shutting him up in a glass case. The wise parent does not want to send out into the world a poorly-equipped, self-satisfied, conceited, purse-proud, narrow-minded child; the parent does well to remember that in the democratic school-room the boy or girl must hold a place, as must the man or woman in society, by right of merit, by intelligence and work and decent deportment. Neither his pedigree nor his bank account will win for him the prizes which the brainier and more disciplined sons of butchers and bakers and candlestick makers capture under his very eyes. If he does not learn at school to regard himself as one, perhaps a very unimportant one of many, and to adjust himself early to existing conditions he is likely to acquire this knowledge later, at the cost of many a humiliating experience and hard knock.

For special lines of study, for sweet and gentle influence, private schools are undeniably necessary, and the writer has reason to bless the generous course of many such, and to wish them all long life and all prosperity, but the protest cannot be too strong against the idea that private schools are for rich men's children and public schools for poor men's children. This is false and unjust. Many a silly mother, in order to show that she can afford "to pay" sends her girl to an expensive private school, where she learns, perhaps, to recognize an imported hat or a tailor-made dress, or a disreputable actor at sight, but where she learns little of real value. Many another mother, unable to pay, and equally silly, keeps her daughter at home, and lets her grow up ignorant rather than openly admit her poverty by sending her girl to a public school. Many an ambitious mother, meaning well by her children and little realizing how ridiculous she makes herself, snubs those who were her friends, and sends her children in the wake of "rich people's children."

Thus injustice is done on all sides, and in every case the child is the sufferer.

What is more calculated to foster that spirit of brotherly love toward which our race, thank God, is moving, than the bringing together of rich and poor, in the innocence of childhood and the fair appreciation of the superior qualities of others; the children of the poor need confidence in themselves and in their destiny, and they get it when they march to the head of the class. Just so long as the front seats in our churches are reserved for the good clothes, and the back seats for

CRISIS OF GIRLHOOD

A TIME OF PAIN AND PERIL

Miss Emma Cole Says that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has Saved Her Life and Made Her Well

How many lives of beautiful young girls have been sacrificed just as they were ripening into womanhood! How many irregularities or displacements have been developed at this important period, resulting in years of suffering!



Miss Emma Cole

Girls' modesty and oversensitiveness often puzzle their mothers and baffle physicians, because they withhold their confidence at this critical period.

A mother should come to her child's aid and remember that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will at this time prepare the system for the coming change and start the menstrual period in a young girl's life without pain or irregularities.

Miss Emma Cole of Tullahoma, Tenn., writes:

Dear Mrs. Pinkham-- "I want to tell you that I am enjoying better health than I have for years, and I owe it all to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. "When fourteen years of age I suffered almost constant pain, and for two or three years I had severe and painful in my side, backaches and was dizzy and nervous, and doctors all failed to help me.

"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was recommended, and after taking it my health began to improve rapidly, and I think it saved my life. I sincerely hope my experience will be a help to other girls who are passing from girlhood to womanhood, for I know your Compound will do as much for them."

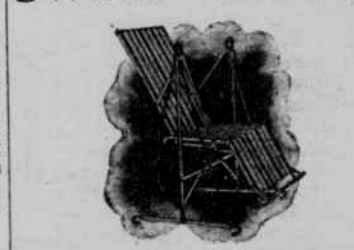
If you know of any young girl who is sick and needs motherly advice ask her to write Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass., and she will receive free advice which will put her on the right road to strong healthy and happy womanhood.

The shabby Christians just so long as the rich man fears contamination for his child, in the public school, and the poor man's child is made to feel the disadvantages of his conditions just so far do we retard the coming of that kingdom for which we daily pray. And now a word on the second point--the appearance and condition of the average country school house. It is, in architecture, a sort of a cross between a barn and a hen-house, it is as ugly and cheap as man can make it. We all know that now, in cities, the school-rooms are as beautiful and hygienic as air and sunshine and blossoming plants and music and pictures and soap and a broom can make them; and we know that many of the most beautiful and accomplished and fashionable young women in society are public school graduates, and are proud of it. Well, in the country, we cannot ask for all this; but we can say that, if the public school wants children from clean refined and comfortable homes, it must furnish them a clean, refined and comfortable school room. The child whose home is attractive and sweet cannot love an ugly school house; nor should its mother send it to a wretched, unsanitary place; the school must be as decent as the home. The child whose home is disorderly and foul and poor, should find in his school house an ideal of something better, an example of something finer and cleaner and more self-respecting than his home affords.

As the country school houses are re-named, let them be a little more attractive, externally, not so uncompromising in their ugliness; let people stop saying "that is only a public school house" as if the name were a synonym for unattractiveness. Let the appearance of the school house be such as to make apology unnecessary. Neat, sanitary, well-proportioned; designed and built with a little good taste.

Educational rallies and orations from distinguished city gentlemen are good things in their way, but inviting and attractive school houses, worthy of the faithful service rendered within their walls, will speak in their own behalf to the passer-by, whether he rolls by in his carriage, or plods along with his axe on his shoulder. That sort of a public school could plead its own cause with silent eloquence. A MOTHER.

COMFORT SWING CHAIR.



Made entirely of metal and canvas. The material is light and firmly braced, finished in black enamel.

Be Comfortable.

The Comfort Chair is different from almost anything else. It is hammock, chair and swing combined.

M. Ruben & Sons,

601 KING STREET

WATERMAN FOUNTAIN PEN, \$2.50

WILF'S.

DRY GOODS.

Uncommonly Great Bargains Will Make This An Uncommonly Busy Week. Sale of Whites For Commencements.

We have just secured from one of the leading manufacturers of high grade white goods over 5,000 yards of 40 inch fine Persian Lawns at a price which enables us to offer them at 12 1/2 cents. The quality is fine and sheer and will be found to be a great value at the special price of 12 1/2c.

White Paris Muslin, 48 inches wide, 30c value, at 25c.

White French Muslin, 48 inches wide, 50c value, at 35c.

White Wash Chiffon, 48 inches wide, 30c value, at 25c.

White Organdies, 72 inches wide, 19c, 25c, 30c and 40c.

White Dotted Swiss, 12 1/2c, 15c, 19c, 25c, 30c and 40c.

White Mercerized Batiste, 30 inches wide, at 50c.

White Mercerized Batiste, 48 inches wide, at 50c.

Silk Mulls, in white, cream and evening shades, 12 1/2c.

India Linon, 40 inches wide, 15c value, at 10c.

White Linen Lawns, 36 inches wide, 40c and 50c.

Glasgow Linen Suitings, white and colors, 12 1/2c and 15c.

White and Cream Silk Aerials, 30c value, at 25c.

White Wash Silk, 30c value, at 25c.

Cream All-wool Allatons, 50c value, 30c.

Cream Mohair, 38 inches wide, 40c yard.

Cream All-wool Nuns Veiling, 40c yard.

Cream Dress Flannels, 38 inches wide, at 40c yard.

Cream Cheviot, 54 inches wide, \$1 yard.

Cream Serge, 46 inches wide, 60c yard.

Cream Cashmere, 36 inches wide, 25c yard.

Cream Voles, 40c and \$1 yard.

For OVER SIXTY YEARS

AN OLD AND WELL-TRIED REMEDY-- Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over sixty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It is pleasant to the taste. Sold by druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Its value is incalculable. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup and take no other kind.

If in a kind of bilious mood. You wish an aid to digest food. No other pill is half so good. As Dr. Williams' Little Early Risers.

The Famous Little Pills EARLY RISERS cure Constipation, Sick Headache, Biliousness, etc. They never gripe or sicken, but impart early rising energy. Good for children or adults. Sold by W. F. Creighton, 401 King street, and corner Queen and Patrick streets.

Sprained Ankle, Stiff Neck, Lame Shoulder.

These are three common ailments for which Chamberlain's Pain Balm is especially valuable. If promptly applied it will save you time, money and suffering when troubled with any of these ailments. For sale by Gibson & Timberman and W. F. Creighton & Co.

The Children's Favorite.

For Coughs, Croup, Whooping Cough, etc. One Minute Cough Cure is the children's favorite. This is because it contains no opiate is perfectly harmless, tastes good and cures. Sold by W. F. Creighton, 401 King street, and corner Queen and Patrick streets.

HISTORY OF ALEXANDRIA.

To the frequent questions as to when the History of Alexandria will be published, I wish to reply that it will be published as soon as Mr. Horace Ramey, the publisher, receives sufficient subscriptions, to be paid on delivery of the book, as will pay him for the paper, printing, etc. He is now circulating subscription papers which will be found at many places of business.

Wm. F. Carne.

POMPEIAN MASSAGE CREAM cleanses, where soap and water fails. Men who shave themselves or are shaved by barbers should use it. Be your own beauty doctor. Price 50c and \$1 per jar. For sale by WARFIELD & HALL, Corner Prince and Fairfax streets.

DRY GOODS.

SUWAN BROS. 424-426 King Street. Telephone and Mail Orders Carefully Executed.

Big June Sale.

We start a big sale beginning June first and ending Saturday night, June 10th. We have purchased hundreds of dollars' worth of the most reasonable goods for this special sale, and offer our patrons an unusual opportunity of saving money on the most desirable and seasonable merchandise.

10 rolls good China Maiting to close out

20 dozen good Cotton Fringed Towels, each, 4c

100 pieces good Mosquito Netting, 8 yards to the piece, each, 45c

50 dozen paper 5c Gem Pins, each, 7c

50 dozen good Black Sewing Silk, spool 10c

10 dozen Brass Extension Ribs, each, 5c

2 pieces good Linoleum, two yards wide, running yard, 98c

50 dozen Fancy Handkerchiefs, 2 for 1c

10 pieces 7c Apron Gingham, yard, 5c

1000 cakes Good Toilet Soap, cake, 2c

One lot Misses' 50c Wash Shirt Waists (solid), each, 15c

One case good 5c Lawn, yard, 5c

15 good and strong black Suit Cases reduced from \$1.49 and \$1.38 to, each 98c

25 dozen Ladies' Lawn Kimonos, each 25c

35 dozen Children's good plain Muslin pants, pair, 10c

20 dozen Children's trimmed Muslin Pants, pair, 15c

10 dozen good linen Fringed Shades, each, 25c

One lot Ladies' 50c Wash Waists, slightly soiled, each, 25c

Ladies' \$4.49 Tan Coat Cloth Coats reduced to, each, \$2.98

Ladies' \$4.50 Tan Coat Cloth Coats reduced to, each, \$3.98

Ladies' \$5.50 Tan Coat Cloth Coats reduced to, each, \$5.98

34 pairs Invisible Lacing \$1 Corsets reduced to, pair, 63c

One case regular 12c Cotton Voles, yard, 8c

40 dozen 12c Pillow Cases, each, 9c

10 dozen good 72x90 Sheets, each, 35c

One bale good heavy Unbleached Cotton, 40 inches wide, yard, 4 1/2c

One lot 15c Ready-made Vests, each, 15c

One lot 50c Ready-made Vests, each, 35c

25 pieces Fruit of the Loom Bleach Muslin, yard, 7c

15 pieces White Flannel Goods, yard, 10c

10 pieces 12c Cannon Cloth, ready shrunk, yard, 9c

1,000 yards good Light Dress Gingham, yard, 4 1/2c

500 yards 12c White Lawn, 40 inches wide, yard, 8 1/2c

500 yards 5c White India Linon, yard 30c

300 yards White Striped Goods special price, yard, 10c

1000 yards 10c Light Percales, yard, 8c

500 yards 12c Light Percales, yard, 9c

10 pieces 12c White Madras, yard, 9c

Small lot 5c Percale Drives, each, 35c

4 Ladies' \$3.38 Black Silk Waists reduced to, each, \$2.49

3 Ladies' \$4.50 Black Silk Waists reduced to, each, \$3.25

One lot Ladies' Long Kimonos, each, 69c

Ladies' regular \$3.50 Black and White China Silk Waists, each, \$2.98

One lot 10c Light Quilt, yard, 7 1/2c

One dozen Ladies' 50c plain Underskirts, each, 35c

25 dozen Ladies' Plain Black Seamless Hose, 1/2 star 15c quality; special price, pair, 11c

10c Star Oiled Linon, yard, 11c

2 pieces 5c Star Carpet, yard, 25c

20 pieces Black Taffeta Ribbon, 3/4 in. wide, yard, 12 1/2c

20 boxes 15c White Silk Featherbone, yard, 11c

REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE.

Furious Fighting.

"For seven years," writes Geo. W. Hoffman, of Harper, Wash., "I had a bitter battle, with chronic stomach and liver trouble, but at last I won and by the use of Electric Bitters. In unhesitatingly recommend them to all, and don't intend in the future to be without them in my medicine chest. They are certainly a wonderful house. They are cured such a bad case as mine." Sold, under guarantee to do the same for you, by E. S. Leadbeater & Sons, druggist, at 50c a bottle. Try them today.

For Rent.

APARTMENTS:

In the "COLONIAL," each containing four rooms, a bath, a reception of \$4 per month until November 1st, will be allowed those renting same at this time.

DWELLINGS:

320-322 south Patrick, 6 rooms, \$12.50

Northeast corner Wolfe and Patrick, 8 rooms, 12.50

307 north Columbus, 6 rooms, 15.00

Northeast corner Wilkes and Fairfax, 10 rooms, 15.00

116-118 south Peyton, 6 rooms, 10.00

223 south Peyton, 6 rooms, 8.50

Cottage at Braddock Heights, 7 rooms, 16.00

STORES:

Northeast corner of King and West, 312 King (possession given July 1st), 108-110 King.

Southeast corner King and Union.

Houses and Lots in all parts of the city for sale, several of which can be purchased on a small cash payment, balance monthly in sums to suit.

M. B. Harlow & Co

Real Estate, Loan and Insurance Brokers,

Harlow Building, 119 S. Fairfax St.

PHONES: Home, 175

Bell, 2-B.

St. Mary's Academy.

The commencement exercises of this very popular educational institution for girls will take place in Lannon's Opera House WEDNESDAY, June 14th, at 3:30 o'clock. A programme varied and interesting will be presented by the pupils.

On the evening of June 19th

A LAWN FETE

for the benefit of the Academy will be opened on the Academy grounds. It will continue to the end of the week. The many patrons and friends of St. Mary's as well as the public generally are cordially invited to attend.

my 27 2c

ROVER'S BLUE NAPHTHA SOAP for sale by J. C. MILBURN.

JEWELRY.

Anyone Need a Clock?

No home can be said to be completely furnished that does not contain at least one good clock. If you want a clock for any room, from kitchen to chamber, you can get a suitable as well as a dependable one here. For those who want a traveling clock or one for the summer cottage, we have a good assortment of reliable timepieces at very reasonable prices. Let us mention also that we have a full line of the best pocket timekeepers that are made, and a fine line of the justly celebrated Simmons' Watch Chains and Fobs to go with them.

H. W. Wildt & Son

JEWELERS,

106 NORTH ROYAL STREET

Correct time furnished by Bell telephone No. 1222.

GROCERIES.

BLACKBERRIES,

12 1/2c Quart.

FIRM

RIPE TOMATOES

Three Pounds For 25 Cents.

J. M. PETTIT, Jr.,

717 King Street.

Stall City Market.

BELL PHONE 300.

FINANCIAL.

R. L. DAINGERFIELD, PRESIDENT.

W. M. H. LAMBERT, VICE PRESIDENT.

W. F. LAMBERT, CASHIER.

Citizens' National Bank.

CAPITAL \$100,000

SURPLUS \$20,000

UNDIVIDED PROFITS \$40,000

Collections made and promptly remitted.

All kinds of investment securities a specialty.

Directors:

E. L. DAINGERFIELD, M. A. AHERN, W. M. H. LAMBERT, WORTH HULFISH, W. F. LAMBERT.

C. E. NICOL, PRESIDENT.

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Alexandria National Bank,

COR. KING AND ROYAL STS., Alexandria, Va.

CAPITAL \$100,000

Deposits received, subject to check. Bonds purchased. Negotiable papers discounted.

Special department for ladies. Safe Deposit Boxes in Burglar and Fire-proof Vault.

We furnish letters of credit, available in all parts of the world. Collections made on all points. This bank offers every facility for the care of your business and solicits same.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

BURKE & HERBERT

BANKERS AND DEALERS IN Investment Securities.

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Letters of Credit and Foreign Exchange furnished.

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